

# SHOCK

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



THE VAMPIRE'S BONES  
WERE-FIENDS OF FINLAND  
THE GIRL WHO  
DIED TWICE  
HAUNT OF THE HYENA  
THE BAT AND THE BRAIN



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# SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

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# The BAT and the BRAIN

ONE WAS A CREATURE THAT FLUTTERED AND CIRCLED IN THE SHADOWS OF A QUIET LABORATORY-- THE OTHER WAS A MIND THAT FLAPPED THROUGH THE DARK BYWAYS OF ETERNAL MIDNIGHT! TOGETHER, THEY FORMED THE BAT AND THE BRAIN-- HIDEOUSLY FUSED BY THE WILL OF A VAMPIRE!



LATE ONE NIGHT--

I'M NO SCIENTIST-- SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY DON HAS SHUT HIMSELF IN A LONELY LABORATORY FOR OVER A MONTH! BUT I AM THE GIRL HE'S GOING TO MARRY-- AND NO EXPERIMENT'S GOING TO KEEP US APART ANOTHER MOMENT!



**BARBARA!** I WAS ON THE VERGE OF PHONING YOU-- BECAUSE I'VE JUST ABOUT WOUND UP THE FIRST PHASE OF MY PROJECT!

DARLING-- YOU LOOK TIRED! WHATEVER YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON-- IT'S BEEN A TERRIBLE STRAIN!

ALL I'VE NOTICED IS AN OCCASIONAL HEADACHE-- PROBABLY BROUGHT ON BY THE EXCITEMENT OF MY DISCOVERY! YOU SEE, I'VE HAD SOME AMAZING EXPERIENCES WITH A-- WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT AN ANIMAL!

HEAVENS, DON-- YOU MAKE IT SOUND WONDERFULLY MYSTERIOUS! WHAT IS THIS THING?

YOU'LL SEE-- AS SOON AS I'VE CONCENTRATED A FEW SECONDS! THERE'S SOMETHING IN THAT BOX-- AND I'M GOING TO BRING IT OUT!

THEN-- TWITCHING AND RUSTLING ON THE SHADOWED RIM--

WATCH, BARBARA-- HERE IT COMES!

OHH! IT'S A HORRID LITTLE BAT!

NOW IT'S GOING TO FLY-- RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS!

NO-- DON'T! THAT THING HORRIFIES ME-- STOP IT!

LOOK! IT TURNED ABRUPTLY-- RIGHT BACK TO THE BOX!

SURE-- ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED? YOU TOLD ME TO STOP IT-- AND I DID!

DON-- THIS IS INCREDIBLE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE SPENT A WHOLE MONTH-- JUST TRAINING THAT MONSTROUS LITTLE CREATURE!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BARBARA! I CREATED THAT BAT!

WHAT? Y-YOU MEAN IT ISN'T REAL?

WELL, TO BE MORE ACCURATE-- IT'S NOT ALIVE! IT'S MERELY A MECHANICAL DEVICE-- A TINY ROBOT ENTIRELY CONTROLLED BY MY THOUGHT WAVES!

THOUGHT WAVES GENERATE FAINT ELECTRICAL IMPULSES THAT ARE PICKED UP BY SENSITIVE REACTOR CELLS IN THE BAT'S MECHANISM! THERE, THE IMPULSES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO ENERGY-- GIVING THE BAT MOTION! THAT'S WHY, WHEN MY BRAIN CONCENTRATES ON THE REACTOR CELLS, THE BAT BECOMES ALMOST A LIVING THING-- AND ITS FLUTTERING TAKES ON A FANTASTIC REALISM!

FANTASTIC ISN'T THE WORD FOR IT! IF YOU HAD TO TEST YOUR REACTOR CELLS ON AN ARTIFICIAL ANIMAL-- WHAT EVER MADE YOU CHOOSE A BAT?

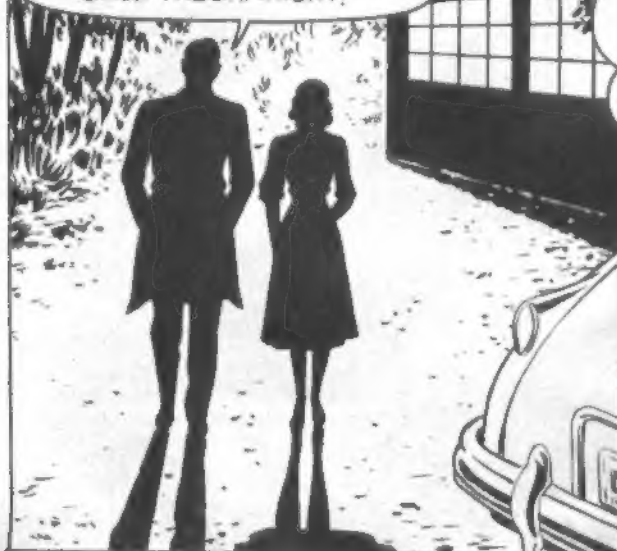
I KNEW YOU'D ASK THAT! TO BEGIN WITH-- LIVING ORGANISMS EITHER SWIM, WALK, CRAWL-- OR FLY!



OF THESE MOVEMENTS-- FLYING IS THE ONE MOST AFFECTED BY THINGS LIKE WIND CURRENTS AND ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE! ACCORDINGLY, A DECISIVE TEST REQUIRED A FLYING MECHANISM-- AND IT SO HAPPENS THAT THE ANATOMY OF A BAT IS PERFECTLY SUITED TO THE REACTOR CELL MECHANISM!

IT'S REALLY AN AMAZING DISCOVERY, DON-- BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT CAN BE CARRIED TOO FAR? WHEN THE BAT'S IN MOTION, YOU GET PALE AND TENSE-- AS IF IT'S DRAINING YOUR ENERGY!

BLAME THAT ON THE HEADACHES I MENTIONED, HONEY-- NOT BRAIN WAVES USING A MERE MILLIONTH OF A VOLT! ANYWAY, I'LL WIND THINGS UP IN TWO MORE DAYS-- AND IF YOU WANT TO USE THE SPARE ROOM-- YOU CAN GIVE ME A HAND!





THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--

DON-- DO YOU **HAVE** TO  
ACTIVATE THAT CREATURE  
AGAIN? AFTER ALL--  
YOU'VE ALREADY  
**PROVED**  
YOUR  
THEORY!

I'M JUST MAKING  
A FEW FINAL  
OBSERVATIONS!  
IT'S PRETTY LATE,  
BARBARA-- WHY  
DON'T YOU GO  
UPSTAIRS?



A MOMENT LATER.. WATCHING THE THING WHEEL  
AND FLIT IN THE SHADOWED SOLITUDE--

I KEEP WONDERING IF THESE  
RECENT HEADACHES AREN'T DUE  
TO **MENTAL STRAIN!** COULD  
BE I'M MISTAKEN --  
BUT I SEEM TO HAVE  
MORE AND MORE  
DIFFICULTY MAKING  
THE BAT RESPOND  
TO MY THOUGHT  
WAVES!



GO BACK TO THE TABLE!  
GO BACK-- AND REMAIN  
MOTIONLESS!



AS A MOMENTARY TREMOR RIPPLES THE GLOSSY  
WINGS--

STRANGE THAT IT SHOULD MOVE EVEN  
SLIGHTLY.. WHEN I'M NO LONGER GIVING OUT  
THOUGHT IMPULSES! BUT IT WOULD BE ABSURD  
TO THINK THAT THE CREATURE'S DEVELOPING SOME  
SORT OF INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION! THERE MUST

BE SOME OTHER REASON-- SOME-  
THING THAT CAN BE EXPLAINED  
**SCIENTIFICALLY!**



SOON  
AFTER-  
WARD--

DON DOESN'T KNOW I WATCHED  
HIM PEERING AT THE BAT--  
AFTER IT ALIGHTED ON THE  
TABLE! MY OWN DREAD IS  
BAD ENOUGH-- BUT WHEN I  
SEE **HIM** BEGINNING TO  
DOUBT-- I CAN'T BEAR  
THE THOUGHT OF GOING  
TO BED!



SUDDENLY.. AS THE DRIFTING MIST GATHERS  
INTO A SHAPE OF HORROR--

**GOOD HEAVENS--  
WHAT IS IT?**



THOSE HIDEOUS WINGS ARE JUST LIKE THE BAT'S! BUT IT... IT'S THE GHOST OF A THING THAT DIED!

YES-- BEFORE, MY PHANTOM MIND COULD ONLY **SEEK OUT** VICTIMS! BUT NOW IT WILL BE DIFFERENT-- **NOW** I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO **PREY** ON THEM!



THEN--  
**DON! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- HELP!**

YE GODS-- BARBARA SOUNDS SCARED WITHIN AN INCH OF HER LIFE!



LET'S CALM DOWN! YOU MUST HAVE DOZED OFF-- AND YOUR UNCONSCIOUS FEAR OF THE ARTIFICIAL BAT WAS EXPRESSED IN A **NIGHTMARE!**

I TELL YOU I **SAW** THE THING AND **HEARD** IT! I'M **NOT** GOING CRAZY!

HONEY-- WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WAS A GHOST-- WITH HORRIBLE BAT WINGS-- AND IT FLUTTERED OUT OF THE WINDOW JUST AS YOU REACHED THE DOOR! THE THING **SPOKE** TO ME, DON-- **SOMETHING** ABOUT **PREYING** ON VICTIMS!



I SENSED YESTER-- DAY THAT YOU'D GONE TOO FAR, DON-- AND NOW I'M **SURE** OF IT!

BARBARA, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT'LL CONVINCE YOU! I WANT YOU TO EXAMINE THE BAT CLOSELY-- SATISFYING YOURSELF THAT IT'S NOTHING BUT A MECHANICAL GADGET-- INCAPABLE OF DOING **ANYTHING** UNLESS IT'S DIRECTED BY A **BRAIN!**



A MOMENT LATER-- AT THE LIBRARY DOOR--

**LISTEN!** DO YOU HEAR THAT FAINT SOUND INSIDE-- **LIKE FLAPPING?**

**SURE!** IT MIGHT BE A TWIG BRUSHING THE WINDOW-- OR PAPERS ON MY DESK RUSTLED BY THE BREEZE-- BUT IT **CAN'T** BE WHAT YOU THINK IT IS!





SEE? THERE'S THE BAT ON THE TABLE--  
**MOTIONLESS!**

YES-- IT'S MOTIONLESS NOW! BUT THAT'S NOT THE TABLE YOU LEFT IT ON!

YOU'RE RIGHT-- BUT THAT'S EASY TO EXPLAIN! THE BAT ONLY WEIGHS A FEW OUNCES-- A GUST OF WIND COULD EASILY HAVE SWEEP IT ACROSS THE LAB!

YOU'RE BLINDING YOURSELF TO THE TRUTH BECAUSE YOU'RE A SCIENTIST-- UNWILLING TO FACE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN! PLEASE, DON-- FROM NOW ON KEEP THIS WINDOW **CLOSED!**



WHY, HONEY-- AFRAID IT MIGHT GET OUT? OKAY, I'LL GIVE IN TO YOUR WHIM-- BUT DON'T THINK I'M CONVINCED!

I'M SURE YOU ARE, DON! TONIGHT YOU DID SOMETHING VERY STRANGE-- YOU MOVED THE BAT WITH A FORCEPS-- AS IF YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUSLY AWARE THAT THE THING'S ALIVE!

DON-- I WON'T THINK ANY LESS OF YOU IF YOU ADMIT THE TRUTH-- **THAT YOU'RE BAFFLED AND AFRAID!** YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SAY IT-- ONLY LET'S GET OUT OF HERE **TONIGHT!**

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! WAIT FOR ME IN THE LIVING ROOM-- I HAVE SOME WORK TO DO!



AS THE MINUTES TICK PAST-- AND THE RESTLESS MOONLIGHT GLISTENS ON WINGS WITH NEITHER LIFE NOR MOTION--

I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND-- BUT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- **BE CAREFUL!** I'VE GOT A DREADFUL FEELING THAT IT'S TOO LATE-- **THAT HE WON'T LET YOU DESTROY IT!**

**SHOULD I DESTROY IT-- AND ADMIT I'VE TAMPERED WITH A FORCE I SHOULD HAVE LEFT UNFATHOMED? OR SHOULD I STICK TO WHAT I TOLD BARBARA-- THAT THE BAT'S A THING THAT MUST BE DIRECTED BY A BRAIN?**



GOOD LORD.. PERHAPS **THAT** EXPLAINS THE FATIGUE I FEEL AFTER EXPERIMENTING WITH THE BAT-- THE SENSATION THAT SOMETHING'S RUNNING **COUNTER** TO MY MY THOUGHT IMPULSES! IS THERE A FORCE AT WORK HERE THAT I HAVEN'T RECKONED WITH-- **ANOTHER BRAIN?**



NO, THAT **CAN'T** BE TRUE-- BECAUSE THE BAT DOESN'T SHOW A SINGLE SIGN OF LIFE! I'LL ADMIT THAT THE EYES HAVE AN AMAZINGLY REALISTIC GLEAM-- BUT THAT'S JUST A DETAIL I HADN'T NOTICED BEFORE!



THEN-- SLASHING THE SILENCE LIKE SPLINTERED GLASS--

**BARBARA! SOMETHING'S WRONG-- IN THE LIVING ROOM!**



TWO FORMS DART TOWARD THE LABORATORY DOOR-- ONE A MAN SHAKEN TO HIS SOUL-- AND THE OTHER--

YE GODS-- **THE BAT!** SOMETHING'S CONTROLLING IT -- GUIDING IT TO WHERE **SHE** IS!



IN THE FIRST FRANTIC INSTANT, THE SHADOWED ROOM HOLDS NOTHING BUT A WHITE-FACED GIRL -- AND THE SKITTERING BEAT OF SMALL BLACK WINGS--

**BARBARA-- WHERE IS IT?**

**THERE--THERE! GOOD HEAVENS, CAN'T YOU SEE IT-- AGAINST THE WALL?**



FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF TIME, WE SHALL BE ONE -- THE BAT AND THE BRAIN! THE BRAIN WITH ITS EVIL-- THE BAT WITH ITS FANGS-- AND BOTH WITH THE SOUL OF A VAMPIRE!





IN THE NEXT INSTANT--

PREY IS WHAT WE WILL SEEK HENCEFORTH-- THE BAT SUSTAINING ITSELF WITH BLOOD-- THE BRAIN FEASTING ON THE VICTIM'S TERROR!

DON-- THAT HORRIBLE THING-- IT'S FLAPPING TOWARD ME!



SUDDENLY--

ARGHHHHHH!

THWOK



TWO PAIRS OF WINGS BEAT WILDLY AGAINST THE WALL-- ONE OF THEM SILENT AND DIMMING --THE OTHER WHIRRING IN A WEIRD METALLIC SPASM!

AGH... AGH...

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS MUCH LONGER, BARBARA --THE VAMPIRE'S STARTING TO DISAPPEAR-- AND THE BAT NO LONGER HAS ANY CONTROL!



THEN-- AS THE WRITHING FIGURE FADES OFF--

CRASH!



THE BAT'S COMPLETELY SMASHED-- BUT EVEN NOW I DREAD LOOKING AT IT!

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! WITH THE BRAIN DESTROYED, THE BAT BECAME A MERE INANIMATE MACHINE-- AND THERE'S WHAT IS LEFT!



DON, NOW THAT IT'S OVER-- MAYBE IT'S BEST TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR RE- ACTOR CELLS -- AND TRY TO RE- MEMBER THE PHANTOM BRAIN AS A HORRIFYING ILLUSION!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY-- BUT IT'D BE A LOT EASIER IF I HADN'T DESTROYED THAT THING THE WAY A VAMPIRE SHOULD BE DESTROYED-- WITH A SILVER BLADE!



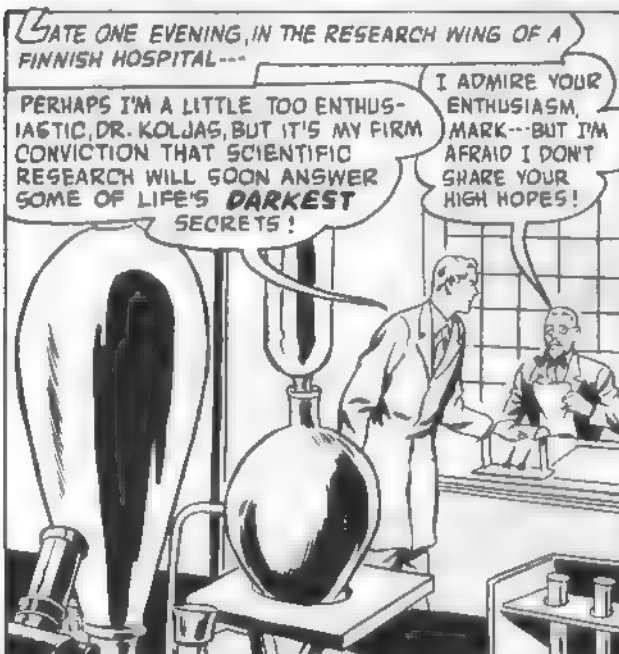
THE END

# The WERE-FIENDS of FINLAND



FROM THE LOWER DEPTHS THEY CAME, STABBING THE AIR WITH FITFUL CRIES, THEIR HORRIFIC FORMS ENCRUSTED WITH THE DARK SHROUDS OF MOULDY DEATH! PRIMEVAL OOZE WAS THEIR BIRTHPLACE, EVIL WAS THEIR MASTER, AND DEATH WAS THE PRICE FOR ALL WHO OPPOSED THE WILL OF ...

**THE WERE-FIENDS of FINLAND!**



LATE ONE EVENING, IN THE RESEARCH WING OF A FINNISH HOSPITAL---

PERHAPS I'M A LITTLE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC, DR. KOLJAG, BUT IT'S MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WILL SOON ANSWER SOME OF LIFE'S **DARKEST** SECRETS!

I ADMIRE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, MARK--- BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T SHARE YOUR HIGH HOPES!

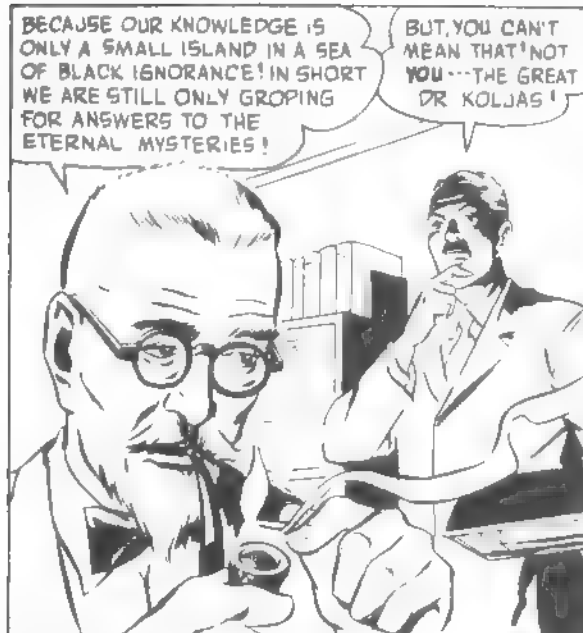


LIKE MOST AMERICANS, IT'S THE CHALLENGE OF SOLVING ANCIENT RIDDLES THAT INTERESTS YOU MOST! THAT'S FINE--- BUT IF YOU ARE REALLY TO SUCCEED IN MEDICINE,

YOU MUST BE SOMETHING OF A **SKEPTIC**, TOO!

A SKEPTIC? BUT WHY?

















**MOMENTS LATER...A GHASTLY SPECTACLE!**

YE GODS...IT'S LIKE THE DEN OF SATAN HIMSELF! AND THESE FUMES--GASP--THEY'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO FEED THE FIRES OF PERDITION!



THIS TUNNEL MUST LEAD TO ANOTHER CHAMBER! EASY, BOY...EASY!



**THEN--**

IT'S KRISTIN! THOSE DEMONS MUST BE ABOUT READY TO STRIKE! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING...AND FAST!



YOUR FATE IS ORDAINED, WOMAN! FIRST YOU MUST DIE, THEN YOUR FATHER! DEATH TO ALL WHO OPPOSE MY RULE!

**N-NO!D-DON'T TOUCH ME!**



**S**UDDENLY, WITH THE LIGHTNING LEAP OF CANINE FURY UNLEASHED...

**WAIT, BOY! COME BACK!**



**U**NMINDFUL OF HIS OWN DANGER, THE FAITHFUL DOG SPRANG TO HIS MISTRESS' AID...



**S**ECONDS LATER--

HURRY, KRISTIN! BACK THROUGH THE PASSAGEWAY! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!





WAIT, MARK---WE CAN'T LEAVE MY DOG BEHIND! THEY'LL KILL HIM!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED KRISTIN! THEY'LL BE AFTER US IN A MINUTE!



AFTER THEM! **THEY MUSTN'T ESCAPE!** LET THEM KNOW THE UNTOLD HORROR OF OUR FANGS! FORWARD, COHORTS **STRIKE!**



OUTSIDE---WORKING WITH FEVERISH HASTE---

W---WHAT ARE YOU DOING MARK? WHY ARE YOU STOPPING TO SET FIRE TO YOUR COAT WHEN **THEY'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND!**

ITS OUR ONLY CHANCE, KRISTIN! ---WE COULD NEVER ESCAPE THEM ON FOOT! I'M PLAYING A LONG SHOT, HONEY---



...SO IT'S GOT TO WORK!



SECONDS LATER, A DEVASTATING EXPLOSION ROCKED THE SUBTERRANEAN VAULT---

**BA-ROOM!**



AND WHEN THE FINAL REVERBERATIONS DIED AWAY---

T-THAT EXPLOSION MARK---WHAT HAPPENED?

IF YOU REMEMBER, THE TUNNEL WAS FILLED WITH A HEAVY GAS! I FIGURED IT CAME FROM THE DECAYING BODIES OF FORMER VICTIMS, AND BEING ORGANIC IT WOULD BE **COMBUSTIBLE!** THE FLAMING COAT WAS ENOUGH TO SET IT OFF!



THEN THOSE MONSTERS WERE ACTUALLY DESTROYED **BY THEIR OWN VICTIMS!**

THAT'S RIGHT! BUT THEIR DESTRUCTION MARKS **OUR** BEGINNING! LET'S TELL YOUR FATHER THE GOOD NEWS DARLING---ABOUT THEM---**AND US!**

THE END!



# WARNING TO THE READER!

Once in a while we come across a story so eerie that we hesitate to publish it -- a story that makes you say, with a shudder, "That could happen to me!" Well, then -- unless you know exactly who all your ancestors were, proceed with caution as you read this tale of gasping thrills and strange love...

# The GIRL WHO DIED TWICE!

OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE PRESENT -- WITH A SCENE THAT GIVES NO HINT OF IMPENDING DISASTER --

OH, HARRY, THE RING'S BEAUTIFUL! ONLY--IT'S SO SUDDEN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

JUST SAY YOU'LL BECOME MRS. HARRY SLADE, SWEETHEART!

BUT I--I JUST MET YOU A MONTH AGO! EVEN THOUGH I'VE SEEN YOU EVERY DAY, I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT YOU!

THEN IT MUST BE TRUE LOVE, DEAREST! AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU, EITHER!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING ABOUT MY FAMILY TREE -- THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MIND! SEE YOU LATER, DARLING!

HEY, FORGET IT! I KNOW EVERYTHING I WANT TO ABOUT YOU!

Later...

HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE...

D. BOWER  
GENEALOGIST

AND THUS, WHAT STARTED AS A CASUAL JOKE, BECAME A DEADLY SERIOUS AFFAIR IN JESSIE'S MIND -- AND THE STAGE WAS SET FOR--  
**HORROR!**

...AND YOU SAY YOU CAN TRACE MY ANCESTORS -- WAY BACK?  
THAT'S MY JOB, MISS DAWES! FIRST, LET ME ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS...

ONE WEEK LATER -- RETURNING TO THE OFFICE OF DAN BOWER -- JESSIE LEARNED SHOCKING NEWS!

WELL, MISS DAWES -- YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND IS A GOOD ONE -- AND YET -- THERE ARE A FEW -- ER -- STRANGE THINGS I CAN'T EXPLAIN!

STRANGE? WHY -- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IN THE PAST THREE HUNDRED YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO OTHER JESSIES IN THE DAWES FAMILY -- BUT I CAN FIND ONLY THEIR DEATH RECORDS!

THERE ARE NO BIRTH RECORDS!

-- FURTHERMORE, EACH JESSIE DAWES DIED VIOLENTLY -- IN SHORT, THEY WERE MURDERED!

THAT'S INCREDIBLE! WH -- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW, MISS DAWES! IT MAY BE JUST COINCIDENCE! I'LL HAVE TO STUDY IT FURTHER!

HER HEART BEATING STRANGELY, JESSIE HURRIED TO MEET HARRY SLADE --

THOSE UNUSUAL FINDINGS OF DAN BOWERS -- THEY DISTURB ME -- AND SO DOES HE! GOLLY, MAYBE I'VE BEEN TOO HASTY -- MAYBE I DON'T CARE FOR HARRY AS MUCH AS I'D THOUGHT!

HMMM, THAT'S FUNNY -- HARRY TOLD ME TO MEET HIM HERE BUT THE PLACE IS DESERTED EXCEPT FOR THIS CAT! HERE, KITTY -- NICE KITTY!

SUDDENLY, WITH A DEMONIC SNARL, THE CAT LEAPED!

OH! HELP!

AS JESSIE FELL BACKWARD --

THAT BENCH -- IT'S BEEN CRUSHED BY A HUGE BOULDER! -- AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SIT DOWN ON IT!



MERCIFUL HEAVENS! --  
IF THAT CAT HADN'T  
FRIGHTENED ME, I'D  
HAVE BEEN SMASHED  
TO A PULP!

JESSIE, DARLING --  
WHAT HAPPENED?  
I HEARD A  
CRASH!



THERE, THERE,  
SWEETHEART!  
COME, I'LL TAKE  
YOU HOME!

OH, HARRY -- I'M  
SO GLAD YOU  
CAME! I'VE  
HAD A  
HORRIBLE  
EXPERIENCE!

CONFUSED AND SHAKEN BY HER ORDEAL, JESSIE  
NEGLECTED TO TELL HARRY THE STRANGE STORY  
OF HER ANCESTRY! ONCE AT HOME, SHE RETIRED --  
BUT REST ELUDED HER FRAYED NERVES!



OH, WHY CAN'T  
I SLEEP? THAT  
AWFUL CAT! --  
I CAN'T GET THE  
PICTURE OF ITS  
SNARLING,  
SPITTING FORM  
OUT OF MY  
MIND!

AS UNEASY TOSSEING MERGED INTO FITFUL  
SLEEP, A NIGHTMARE TOOK ON DREADFUL  
SHAPE --



OH, NO!  
PLEASE --  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE!  
PLEASE!

TERRIFIED, JESSIE AWOKE -- TO BEHOLD  
THE BALEFULLY GLOWING EYES OF --



NO -- NO! IT -- IT  
CAN'T BE TRUE!  
I'M STILL  
DREAMING --  
I MUST  
BE!

EVEN AS SHE STARED AND TREMBLED IN DISBELIEF,  
THE FORM OF THE GREAT CAT SUDDENLY UNDERWENT  
AN INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION -- AND  
THEN -- STANDING THERE AT THE FOOT OF HER  
BED, SHE SAW -- HERSELF!



YES, I AM JESSIE DAWES --  
THE FIRST JESSIE DAWES! IT  
WAS I, AS A CAT, WHO SAVED YOUR  
LIFE TONIGHT -- FOR A PURPOSE!

BUT WHY -- WHY?  
I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND!





"SO IT WAS--AND HERE AM I,  
A FORLORN GHOST, DOOMED TO  
ETERNAL WANDERING--"

FOR I HAVE VOWED  
REVENGE--AND EACH CENTURY  
I RETURN AS A REINCARNATED  
JESSIE DAWES!-- BUT, TWICE,  
THE CLEVER FIEND HAS  
OUTWITTED ME--  
**MURDERED ME!**

AND NOW, THIS TIME,  
I MUST WIN--OR ROAM THE  
TWILIGHT WORLD  
**FOREVER!**

IS--IS THERE  
ANY WAY  
I CAN  
HELP YOU?

NO-- BECAUSE  
THE ARCH-VILLAIN  
IS FIENDISHLY  
CLEVER! YOU  
ARE TO BE HIS  
**NEXT  
VICTIM!**

AN ICY SHIVER OF FEAR CREEPT ALONG JESSIE'S  
SPINE AS A DREAD QUESTION FORMED IN HER  
BRAIN!

THE ARCH-VILLAIN?  
WH--WHO DO YOU MEAN?--  
WHO IS THIS  
MONSTER?

YOUR  
SWEETHEART--  
HARRY  
SLADE!

IT WAS SLADE WHO TRIED  
TO KILL YOU WITH THAT  
ROCK TONIGHT! AND IT  
IS SLADE WHO WILL  
NOT FAIL,  
**NEXT TIME!**

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE  
IT! I WON'T!

**N**EXT DAY, IN AN AGONY OF  
DOUBT, JESSIE SOUGHT THE  
AID OF THE ONE PERSON WHO  
COULD HELP HER...

... AND THAT'S  
THE WHOLE STORY,  
MR. BOWER!  
OH, WHAT CAN  
I DO?

I'LL CHECK ON  
SLADE,  
FIRST!  
MEANWHILE,  
GET SOME REST  
--JESSIE!

THE  
GIRL'S  
OBVIOUSLY  
OUT OF  
HER MIND!  
STILL--I  
WONDER--

A DAY OF FEVERISH RESEARCH  
PRODUCED AWFUL  
EVIDENCE!

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS,  
HARRY SLADE WAS NEVER  
BORN! HE APPEARED OUT OF  
NOWHERE JUST BEFORE YOU  
MET HIM! IT  
MUST BE A  
COINCIDENCE,  
OF COURSE!

NO--IT'S  
ALL TRUE!  
I'M  
**DOOMED!**

NONSENSE! WE'RE GOING TO  
BEAT THIS THING--TOGETHER!  
FIRST, TAKE ME TO SEE  
THIS "GHOST"  
OF YOURS!

BUT CAN HUMAN CLEVERNESS  
DEFEAT THE ALL POWERFUL  
INTELLIGENCE OF THE SUPER-  
NATURAL? IN ALL OF HISTORY,  
IT HAS BEEN DONE BUT RARELY--  
AND THEN ONLY BY THOSE POSSESSED  
BY SUPREME COURAGE!



AT JESSIE'S HOME --

THIS, DAN, IS MY ANCESTOR, JESSIE DAWES!

BUT--IT'S ONLY AN ORDINARY CAT!



AT ONCE, THE 'ORDINARY CAT' LOOMS ENORMOUS -- ONCE AGAIN CHANGES TO --

WHO IS THIS?

I-I'VE BROUGHT A FRIEND TO HELP US...

YE GODS! IT'S TRUE--AND I THOUGHT--!



HE CANNOT HELP US, JESSIE! HUMANS CANNOT DESTROY A DEMON--HE CAN ONLY DIE BY HIS OWN HAND! HE MUST BE TRICKED INTO IT!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY! WE NEED TIME TO THINK THIS THING OUT!



GOOD HEAVENS! I FORGOT--I HAVE A DATE WITH HARRY TONIGHT! HE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

ANY MINUTE? GREAT SCOTT--JUST WHEN I DON'T HAVE AN IDEA IN MY HEAD!

PLANS ARE USELESS! IT'S TOO LATE--ALL IS LOST!



AS THE DEMON APPROACHED--HIS FACE TWISTED WITH EVIL ANTICIPATION --

I'VE KILLED YOUR REINCARNATED SPIRIT, MISTRESS JESSIE DAWES! ONCE MORE, AND I'LL BE FREE OF YOU -- FOREVER! THIS VIAL OF POISON WILL DO ITS WORK-- TONIGHT!



ABOUT TO PRESS THE DOORBELL, SLADE PAUSED! THERE, FRAMED IN THE WINDOW...

TWO JESSIES-- AND ONE OF THEM A SPIRIT! THEN SHE'S THE MORTAL ENEMY I MUST STRIKE DOWN -- THAT OTHER ONE I PLOTTED AGAINST IS NOTHING BUT A FOOLISH MORTAL!





CRUELLY TOYING WITH HIS VICTIMS, SATAN'S DISCIPLE VOLUNTEERED TO REPLACE THE FUSE--WHILE THE TWO MORTALS WAITED IN TERROR!



THE FUSE BOX IS IN THE CELLAR-- I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

INSTANTLY, THE SILENT CAT RESUMED HER GHOSTLY SHAPE! AND THEN-- A MESSAGE OF HOPE!

SHH! -- SLADE FORGOT THAT CATS CAN SEE IN THE DARK! NOW--QUICKLY-- DO AS I TELL YOU!

YES, ANYTHING-- BUT IT'D BETTER WORK!

WITH FEVERISH HASTE, DAN AND JESSIE FOLLOWED THE GHOST'S WHISPERED INSTRUCTIONS! THEN, AS SLADE RETURNED--

WELL, THE LIGHTS ARE FIXED! --SAY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CAT?



THE POOR THING-- SHE DIED SUDDENLY!

TOO BAD! WONDER WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN?

MIGHT AS WELL FINISH OUR COFFEE! HERE'S YOURS, MR. SLADE!



THE FIEND, UNSUSPECTING, LIFTED THE CUP TO HIS LIPS! SUDDENLY, AS IF SEARING FLAMES WERE RACING THROUGH HIS EVIL VEINS--



AAAGH!

AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, HARRY SLADE HAD VANISHED INTO THE FOUL DEPTHS WHENCE HE HAD COME!

BY GEORGE! POURING THE POISONED CREAM INTO HIS CUP WORKED!

HE DIED BY HIS OWN HAND--AND WE'RE RID OF HIM FOR GOOD!



DAN -- THE CAT-- WHERE IS SHE?

SHE'S GONE, SWEETHEART-- AND THE SPIRIT OF JESSIE DAWES HAS FINALLY FOUND ETERNAL PEACE!



AND THUS DID THE FORCES OF GOOD SPAN THE CENTURIES TO DEFEAT EVIL-- AS THEY WILL ALWAYS, TO THE END OF TIME!

The End

# The HAUNT of the HYENA

IT WAS JUST A DEAD ANIMAL... A MUSTY TROPHY HIDDEN IN THE GLOOM OF A MYSTERIOUS MANOR! BUT ITS EYES HELD A GLEAM THAT HINTED OF MIDNIGHTS BRIMMING WITH TERROR... WHEN CREATURES THAT WERE NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST SCUTTLED THROUGH  
**The HAUNT of the HYENA!**



IT'S WONDERFUL TO LEARN YOU'VE INHERITED A HOUSE, BRUCE. BUT I CERTAINLY WISH THE SURROUNDINGS WEREN'T SO GLOOMY!

YEP...AND ONLY YESTERDAY YOU WERE WONDERING WHERE WE'D LIVE AFTER WE GET MARRIED! I THINK IT'S PURE LUCK THAT A COUNTRY LAWYER HAPPENED TO SEARCH THROUGH SOME OLD DEEDS...AND FOUND I'M THE ONLY DESCENDANT OF JOHN ANDREWS!

AND WHAT ELSE DID THE LAWYER FIND? YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT, BRUCE...BUT I GOT A GLIMPSE OF HIS LETTER! **JOHN ANDREWS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED NEARLY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...** AND NO ONE'S GONE NEAR THE MANOR SINCE!

THAT OLD WOMAN LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE'S LIVED AROUND HERE FOR YEARS NORMAL! **SHE SHOULD KNOW SOME THING ABOUT THE OLD HOUSE!**





YOU'RE GOING UP TO THE MANOR, EH? NOW THERE'LL BE LIGHTS IN THE WINDOWS AND FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN - BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD - IT WON'T GET RID OF **THEM!**

**THEM?**...I THOUGHT THE PLACE WAS **EMPTY!** HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE UP THERE?



WAIT **YOU'LL SEE 'EM!** STRIPED THINGS WITH STARING EYES... AND BRISTLING HAIR ON THEIR **HIDEOUS HEADS!**



*S*LOWLY, THE SHRILLING OF THE CRICKETS FADES AWAY AND IN A SPOT THAT SEEMS FOREVER DUSK -

OKAY, HONEY **HERE IT IS!**



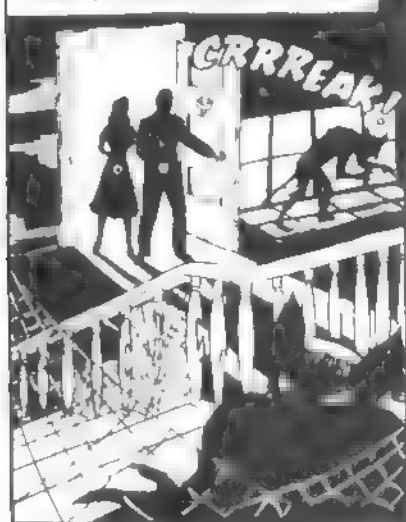
BRUCE I KNOW IT'LL SOUND SILLY - BUT AFTER WHAT THAT OLD WOMAN SAID --- DO YOU SUPPOSE THE PLACE IS REALLY **HAUNTED?**

THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT'S HAUNTING **ME**, HONEY...AND THAT'S FINDING A HOUSE! WELL, WE'VE **GOT ONE**...AND NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP ME FROM LOOKING IT OVER!

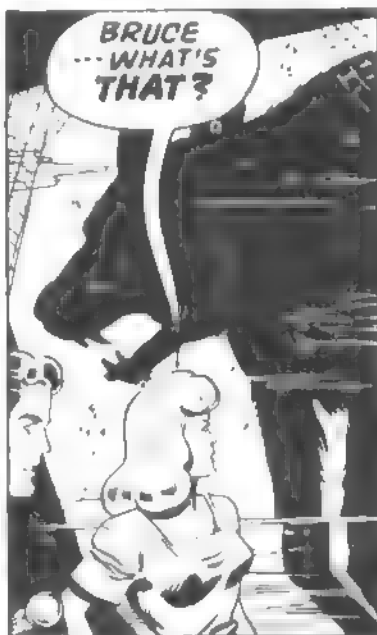


*S*LOWLY THE DOOR GRATES OPEN AND FOR AN INSTANT THE CLAMMY DARKNESS SEEMS TO RECEDE IN A SWIRL OF VAGUE, LOOMING SHAPES!

**GRRREAK!**

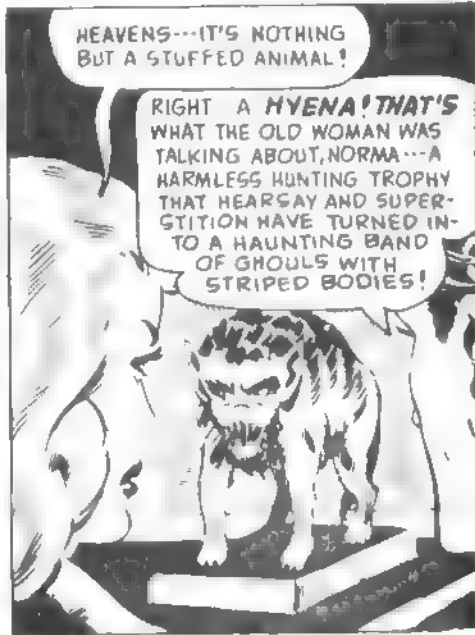


BRUCE...WHAT'S THAT?



HEAVENS...IT'S NOTHING BUT A STUFFED ANIMAL!

RIGHT A **HYENA!** THAT'S WHAT THE OLD WOMAN WAS TALKING ABOUT, NORMA...A HARMLESS HUNTING TROPHY THAT HEARSAY AND SUPERSTITION HAVE TURNED INTO A HAUNTING BAND OF GHOULS WITH STRIPED BODIES!



BRUCE, MAYBE IT **WILL** BE ALL RIGHT TO LIVE IN ANDREWS MANOR AFTER WE'RE MARRIED... BUT FOR GOODNESS SAKE, LET'S GET RID OF **THAT**!

OKAY... WE'LL CART IT AROUND TO RYAN'S CURIO SHOP! THAT PLACE SELLS JUST ABOUT **ANYTHING**... MAYBE THEY CAN GET RID OF IT FOR US!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

LOOK, RYAN... I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO **BUY** THIS HYENA... SO WHY BE CHOOSY?

YOU KNOW WHAT A HYENA EATS, DON'T YOU? SURE, IT'S **DEAD**... BUT I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING AN ANIMAL AROUND THAT MAYBE PAWED OPEN A FEW GRAVES BACK IN AFRICA! BUT I'LL DO YOU A FAVOR BRUCE... YOU CAN LEAVE IT HERE!

THAT NIGHT... AT BRUCE'S APARTMENT...

NORMA YOU'RE JUMPY AS A STEEPLECHASE! YOU STILL GOT THAT HYENA ON YOUR MIND... OR WHAT?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT... I'M SURE I SAW SOMETHING PROWL TOWARD THE WINDOW... A HUNCHER FIGURE WITH A STRANGE WHITE FACE!

BRUCE... I HEARD IT! IT SPOKE... IT SPOKE!

FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, RYAN... PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! WHAT SPOKE?

'MIDNIGHT IS COMING,' IT SAID! 'MIDNIGHT IS COMING'... JUST LIKE THAT!

HE'S TOO CRAZED WITH FEAR TO GIVE A LUCID EXPLANATION, BRUCE... BUT I KNOW WHAT SPOKE! **THE HYENA!**

**WHATEVER** IT WAS... MIDNIGHT'S JUST TWENTY MINUTES OFF! LET'S GO TO THE SHOP... AND SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

SOON AFTERWARD...

I - I DON'T WANT TO SOUND CHILDISH, DARLING... BUT SUPPOSE WE FIND OURSELVES UP AGAINST SOMETHING UNEXPECTED... SOMETHING **HIDEOUS**?

**THEN** MAYBE WE'LL GET THE ANSWER TO A LOT OF THINGS... INCLUDING THE **DISAPPEARANCE OF JOHN ANDREWS!** BUT I **STILL** THINK THE WHOLE THING'S STRICTLY FROM NERVES... GO TAKE A SEAT AND TRY TO KEEP A GRIP ON **YOURS!**

SLOWLY THE MINUTES DRAG ON...AND SLOWLY...  
BRUCE BEGINS TO WONDER! IS THAT THE DIM  
LIGHT REFLECTED IN THE HYENA'S EYES...OR  
IS IT THE EYES?

YEP, THEY ALMOST SEEM TO  
BE GLINTING WITH AN UNCANNY  
HINT OF SOMETHING ALIVE...  
SOMETHING WAITING!

Then...AT THE THUDDING STROKE OF TWELVE

BRUCE...THE  
MUMMY CASE!  
LOOK...LOOK  
...IT'S  
OPENING!

BRRRUMP!

SLUNG WITH TATTERED BURIAL  
WINDINGS AND THE MUSTY RANKNESS  
OF A FORGOTTEN TOMB...

GOOD LORD! IT CAN'T  
MOVE...NOT AFTER  
THOUSANDS OF YEARS!

IT WASN'T THE HYENA RYAN HEARD  
...IT WAS THAT THING...MUTTER-  
ING FROM ITS TOMB!

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT  
THAT...NOW! THE MUMMY'S  
HOBBLING TOWARD THE  
HYENA...AND INCH BY  
INCH...THE HYENA'S  
TURNING ITS  
HEAD!

Then...IN A FLASH THAT RIPS  
THE DUSTY GLOOM...

CRRAK!

GREAT GUNS! THE MUMMY'S  
VANISHED...JUST AS IF THAT  
THING ABSORBED IT!  
AND LOOK WHAT THE  
HYENA'S BECOME!

HA-HA! THAT IS  
WHAT HAPPENS TO  
ANY CORPSE I AM  
AROUND AT MIDNIGHT!  
THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE BODY OF JOHN  
ANDREWS...AFTER I KILLED  
HIM SO THAT HIS ISOLATED  
MANOR COULD BECOME THE  
HAUNT OF  
THE HYENA!

A CREEP LIKE YOU MUST HAVE  
BEEN EVIL TO START WITH...  
BUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE  
LOOKED LIKE  
THAT!

YES SOMETHING  
CHANGED ME...FROM  
A HUMAN TO A CREATURE  
THAT PREYS ON THE  
DEAD! WATCH...YOU'LL  
SEE HOW IT HAPPENED...  
IN A VISION THAT  
PROBES THE MURKY  
SECRETS OF  
THE PAST!





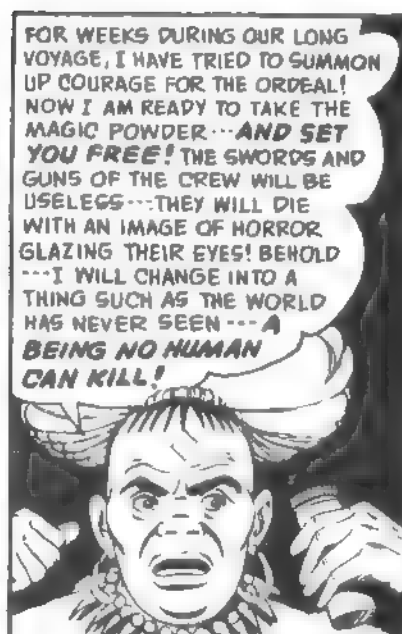
GOOD HEAVENS---SOMETHING'S GLIDING THROUGH THAT MIST! IT'S A SHIP!

A SLAVE SHIP---FREIGHTED WITH HUMAN MISERY! A HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS AGO---I WAS MASTER OF THAT VESSEL!

"AMONG MY CAPTIVES WAS A WITCH DOCTOR---AND ONE NIGHT---I WATCHED AS HE BROUGHT OUT A MAGIC POWDER!"



MY TRIBE HAS GUARDED THIS MAGIC FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS---WE HAVE SAVED IT FOR THE DAY WHEN OUR PEOPLE FACE DOOM FROM THEIR ENEMIES! THAT DAY HAS COME!



FOR WEEKS DURING OUR LONG VOYAGE, I HAVE TRIED TO SUMMON UP COURAGE FOR THE ORDEAL! NOW I AM READY TO TAKE THE MAGIC POWDER---AND SET YOU FREE! THE SWORDS AND GUNS OF THE CREW WILL BE USELESS---THEY WILL DIE WITH AN IMAGE OF HORROR GLAZING THEIR EYES! BEHOLD---I WILL CHANGE INTO A THING SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN---A BEING NO HUMAN CAN KILL!

"IT SOUNDED LIKE NONSENSE---BUT IT WOULD BE WORTH A BULLET TO FIND OUT!"



IF THE POWDER'S THAT GOOD---IT ISN'T GOING TO BE WASTED ON A HEATHEN DOG LIKE YOU!

AARGH!

"SLIPPING INTO MY CABIN, I DECIDED TO MAKE A TEST! I SWALLOWED THE POWDER---AND FELT A SURGE OF EVIL LIKE LIQUID FIRE---"



AHH! CHANG-ING---CHANGING!

GREAT HORN SPOON---THAT'S NO MAN---IT'S A DEMON OF EVIL!

"THESE MEN WHO RE- COILED IN WHITEFACED TERROR HAD BEEN MY SHIPMATES ON A DANGEROUS VOYAGE---MY ACCOMPLICES IN ILLEGAL SLAVE TRADING---BUT NOW THEY WERE HUMANS! HUMANS WHO MUST BE DE- STROYED BEFORE THE SHIP MADE PORT---BEFORE THEY REVEALED THE SECRET OF MY GRISLY TRANSFORMATION!"



"I WAITED UNTIL WE REACHED MAGNOLIA SWAMP---A TIDAL MARSH NOT FAR FROM HERE---AND THEN OPENED THE SEA VALVE!"



HELP! HELP!

HAA! WRECKAGE--- BODIES---IT'LL ALL BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE SWAMP--- FOREVER!



THOSE POOR DEVILS HAD **ONE** THING TO BE THANKFUL FOR! THEY DIED - BUT AT LEAST YOU COULDN'T CLAIM THEIR **BODIES!**

I'VE HAD NO LACK OF VICTIMS! YOU AND THE GIRL WILL KNOW **THAT** AFTER I'VE KILLED YOU ... **AND YOUR BODIES FUSE WITH MINE TOMORROW MIDNIGHT!**



**COME ON, NORMA... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... FAST!**



LET THEM **TRY** TO ESCAPE! THAT WILL GIVE THEM **ANOTHER PROOF** OF MY POWERS... WHEN MY DEMONS TRACK THEM DOWN **NO MATTER HOW FAR THEY GO!**



BRUCE IT'S HOPELESS! TIME AND DISTANCE MEAN NOTHING TO A FIEND LIKE **THAT!**

MAYBE NOT! BUT THE HYENA WON'T BE GO INTERESTED IN PREY IF HE'S FORCED TO FIND A NEW REFUGE - **AFTER WE'VE BURNED DOWN ANDREW'S MANOR!**



**HOURS LATER** IN A HALL MANTLED BY THE GREY PALL OF DAWN

WE **SHOULD** HAVE DESTROYED THIS PLACE THE **FIRST** TIME, BRUCE! **NOW** I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE TOO LATE... **THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME IN!**

HATE TO SAY YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY - BUT DO YOU HEAR **THAT?** THERE'S A STRANGE NOISE IN THE CORRIDOR **LIKE SCUTTling FOOT-STEPs!**



Then... THE DOORWAY FRAMES THE SHAPE OF HORROR!

STRIPED THINGS... WITH STARING EYES! GOOD HEAVENS... WHY DIDN'T I REMEMBER?



YOU CAN MAKE IT, NORMA! GET OUT... **FAST!**

**HAA HA HA!**



THE  
HYENA!

THERE'S **ONE** TIME  
I ALWAYS RESPOND TO  
THE THOUGHT WAVES  
SENT OUT BY MY FIENDS  
...AND THAT'S  
WHEN THEY'VE  
FOUND PREY!

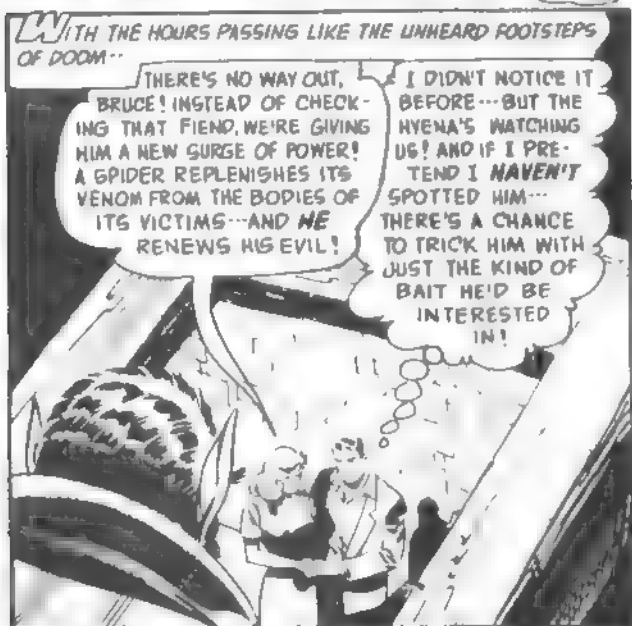


ONLY THE BLACK MAGIC OF THE AFRICAN  
JUNGLES COULD SPAWN THINGS LIKE  
**THEM!** THE POWDER I TOOK WAS  
MADE FROM THE CHARRED BONES OF  
THE ARCH-FIEND WHO ONCE CON-  
TROLLED THEM...AND NOW **MINE**  
IS THE WILL THEY  
OBEY!



IN A VAULT BURDENED WITH THE  
GHOSTLY TERROR OF PAST VICTIMS  
TAKE MY ADVICE, FREAK...AND KILL  
US **NOW**...BECAUSE I'M NOT GOING  
TO BE CONTENT WITH **ESCAPING!**  
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE...I'LL BE  
REACHING FOR A WAY  
TO END YOUR  
**SLIMY**  
CAREER!

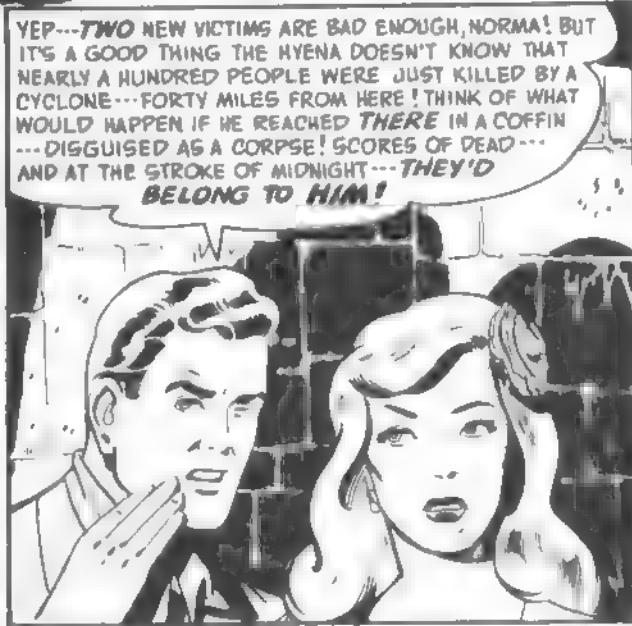
AHA, NO...YOU CAN'T  
TAUNT ME INTO TAK-  
ING YOUR LIVES YET!  
WAIT UNTIL **MID-**  
**NIGHT**...WHEN YOUR  
LIFELESS BODIES  
BECOME PART OF  
**MINE!**



WITH THE HOURS PASSING LIKE THE UNHEARD FOOTSTEPS  
OF DOOM...

THERE'S NO WAY OUT,  
BRUCE! INSTEAD OF CHECK-  
ING THAT FIEND, WE'RE GIVING  
HIM A NEW SURGE OF POWER!  
A SPIDER REPLENISHES ITS  
VENOM FROM THE BODIES OF  
ITS VICTIMS...AND **HE**  
RENEWS HIS EVIL!

I DIDN'T NOTICE IT  
BEFORE...BUT THE  
HYENA'S WATCHING  
US! AND IF I PRE-  
TEND I **HAVEN'T**  
SPOTTED HIM...  
THERE'S A CHANCE  
TO TRICK HIM WITH  
JUST THE KIND OF  
BAIT HE'D BE  
INTERESTED  
IN!



YEP...**TWO** NEW VICTIMS ARE BAD ENOUGH, NORMA! BUT  
IT'S A GOOD THING THE HYENA DOESN'T KNOW THAT  
NEARLY A HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE JUST KILLED BY A  
CYCLONE...FORTY MILES FROM HERE! THINK OF WHAT  
WOULD HAPPEN IF HE REACHED **THERE** IN A COFFIN  
...DISGUISED AS A CORPSE! SCORES OF DEAD...  
AND AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT...**THEY'D**  
**BELONG TO HIM!**



MINUTES LATER

NOW I KNOW WHAT THOSE  
SCUTTling FOOTSTEPS MEAN  
...**THE FIENDS!** BRUCE,  
THERE'S OVER AN HOUR TO  
GO BEFORE MIDNIGHT...  
THEY **CAN'T** BE  
COMING FOR  
US!

KEEP YOUR HEAD, MONEY  
**THEY'RE CARRYING**  
**A COFFIN!** THE HYENA'S  
READY TO PULL A FAST  
ONE...AND I'LL HAVE TO  
PUT ON A CONVINCING  
ACT TO LURE HIM  
ALONG!



GOOD LORD...**THE HYENA!** HE'S  
LISTENED, NORMA **HE'S LEARNED**  
ABOUT THOSE CYCLONE  
VICTIMS!

**TWO**  
VICTIMS  
CAN WAIT...  
WHEN A **HUNDRED**  
ARE READY TO BE  
CLAIMED! **YOU** WILL  
DRIVE ME THERE...AND  
REMEMBER THAT MY FIENDS  
CAN BE SUMMONED IN A  
SECOND! AT THE FIRST SIGN  
OF A TRICK...YOU'LL  
KNOW THE KIND OF  
AGONY THAT WOULD  
MAKE DEATH A  
BOON!



**M**ILES BEYOND

NOW WE'LL SEE IF THE GAMBLE PAYS OFF, NORMA!  
THERE'S JUST A MINUTE TO SPARE BEFORE MIDNIGHT...  
AND WE'VE REACHED A SPOT THE  
HYENA OUGHT TO  
RECOGNIZE!

THE PLACE WHERE  
I SANK THE SHIP...  
**MAGNOLIA  
SWAMP!**



Then... AT THE INSTANT OF TWELVE...

WHAT'S THAT GLOW?  
THE SWAMP IS HEAVING...  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
IN THAT MIRE THAT'S  
ALIVE!



**A**S THE FIENDS BRISTLE FORTH IN THE DARKNESS

OKAY CREEP... WHAT NOW? YOU'VE BOASTED  
THAT THE DEAD RISE AT MIDNIGHT WHEN YOU'RE  
AROUND... BUT CAN YOU FACE THEM... THE CREW  
YOU MURDERED?

FOOL... IS THAT WHAT YOU  
HOPED FOR? YES, **BODIES** RISE  
AT MIDNIGHT... BUT WHERE ARE **THEIR**  
BODIES... AFTER OVER A CENTURY  
IN THAT BOTTOMLESS BLACK  
OOZE? ASK YOURSELF THAT  
... WHILE THE FIENDS  
TEAR YOU  
APART!



**U**P FROM THE CHURNING BLACKNESS... TOWERING  
HIGHER AND HIGHER

WHAT ABOUT IT  
HYENA... THINK  
YOU CAN CLAIM  
THAT?



**A** TREMENDOUS ARM REACHES DOWN AND WITH A  
SINGLE AVENGING SWEEP

**CRR RASH!**

**AAARGH!**



**A**S THE DRIPPING HULK SINKS BACK INTO THE YIELDING  
DEPTHS...

LOOK, BRUCE! THE PHANTOM'S  
GOING DOWN WITH IT... BACK TO  
OBLIVION... LIKE A THING  
THAT CAME INTO BEING  
FOR JUST A SINGLE  
PURPOSE!

THAT'S SOMETHING  
THE HYENA REALIZED  
TOO LATE, HONEY!  
THE PHANTOM RE-  
PRESENTED THE SPIRITS  
OF MEN WHOSE BODIES  
THE HYENA **NEGLECTED**  
TO CLAIM... SPIRITS THAT  
WAITED FOR THEIR HOUR  
OF RECKONING... **AT  
MIDNIGHT!**



# ARTIST of EVIL



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN PICTURES SO HORRIBLE THAT LOOKING AT THEM MADE YOUR HEAD SPIN AND YOUR BLOOD FREEZE -- WHILE A PARALYZING FEAR GRIPPED YOUR BODY? HERE IS A CHILLING TALE OF AN ARTIST WHO COULD ONLY PAINT EVIL -- WHOSE PAINTINGS WERE EVIL ENOUGH TO **KILL!**

AT A NEW ONE-MAN EXHIBIT --

THE SCENES ARE SO-- REAL! I WISH I COULD LEARN TO PAINT THAT WAY, JIM! AND YET -- THERE'S SOMETHING FRIGHTENING ABOUT THEM!

MAYBE -- BUT THE TECHNIQUE IS FLAWLESS! AND AS A CRITIC, I OUGHT TO GIVE THIS ARTIST A GOOD REVIEW! NATAS -- WONDER WHO HE IS? I NEVER HEARD OF HIM BEFORE, PEGGY!

HI, SUMMERS -- SO YOU'RE WRITING YOUR REVIEW TOO! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THEY'RE MONSTROUS! GOOD TECHNICALLY, OF COURSE, BUT I WOULD NEVER GIVE A GOOD REVIEW TO SUBJECTS OF SUCH-- DISTILLED EVIL! I'M GOING TO DO THE BEST I CAN TO KEEP VISITORS FROM SHOWING UP HERE!







“THE PORTRAIT HAUNTED JIM'S DREAMS! AND HE AWOKE TO HORROR -- FOR A NIGHTMARE HAD BECOME GRUESOME REALITY!”



“FIGHTING WITH FIERCE DESPERATION, JAMES MANAGED TO THRUST HIS Foe BACK FOR THE MOMENT --”



“JIM'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND FOUND A LAMP! BUT WITH THE LIGHT, HIS AWFUL ADVERSARY HAD DISAPPEARED!”





**MORNING FOUND JIM CONVINCED IT HAD BEEN A NIGHTMARE -- FOR THE THING HE HAD BATTLED WAS THE CREATURE OF THE PORTRAIT! THEN -- AN AMAZING DISCOVERY!**



**THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT INVESTIGATE THAT MYSTERIOUS ARTIST -- NATAS! ACCOMPANIED BY PEGGY--**



**POWERLESS, JIM LEFT! IT SEEMED AN EASY MATTER TO WRITE THE WORDS THAT WOULD FREE PEGGY, BUT--**

**I--I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! I KEEP THINKING OF THE PEOPLE WHO'LL READ MY REVIEW, AND BE FACED WITH THE LIVING EVIL THE PAINTINGS REPRESENT!**



**BUT -- BUT MAYBE I'M MAKING TOO MUCH OUT OF THIS -- MAYBE THE PAINTINGS AREN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT! PERHAPS IF I RETURNED TO THE EXHIBIT, LOOKED AT THEM AGAIN ---**



**SO -- BACK AT THE EXHIBIT ---**

**FUNNY -- IT'S AFTER HOURS BUT THE DOOR WAS STILL OPEN! AND WHERE'S OLD ANDY THE WATCHMAN?**



**THEN -- A TRAGIC DISCOVERY!**

**NOT A MARK ON HIM -- NOTHING BUT THAT EXPRESSION OF AWFUL FEAR! NOTHING HUMAN KILLED HIM -- BUT THOSE PICTURES DID!**



**AROUND HIM THERE SWIRLED A LIVING EVIL -- AN EVIL WHICH HAD PREYED ON THE LIVING--**

**YOU'VE MADE UP MY MIND FOR ME! I WON'T COMPROMISE WITH YOU -- BUT I'LL DESTROY YOU!**



**MAD WITH RAGE, JIM ATTACKED THE SINISTER PAINTINGS! AND FROM THEM, STRANGE BEINGS STREAMED-- AND STRUCK BACK!**



IT WAS A STRANGE BATTLE -- AN UNEQUAL BATTLE --



--AND FINALLY, JIM WENT DOWN -- KNOCKING OVER THE WATCHMAN'S LANTERN!



NO! NO! NOT THE FIRE AGAIN!



WHEN JIM REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS ---

THANK HEAVENS YOU DON'T NEED MY MINISTRATIONS -- I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE DYING!



THANKS, PADRE -- BUT MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HAD DIED! WHAT HAVE I GOT LEFT TO LIVE FOR NOW?



THE MENACE OF THE PAINTINGS HAD BEEN DESTROYED -- BUT WITHIN JIM LINGERED THE MEMORY OF PEGGY -- POWERLESS WITHIN SATAN'S GRASP!

SON, WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP HOPE! HERE, TAKE THIS -- WHO KNOWS IN WHAT WAY IT MAY HELP YOU?



JIM SCARCELY GAVE THE BOOK A LOOK AS HE THRUST IT INTO HIS POCKET! ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT A SUDDEN, INEXPLICABLE SURGE OF COURAGE SWEEPED THROUGH HIM --

I'M GOING TO BEARD THE DEVIL IN HIS LAIR AND SAVE PEGGY--EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!



AT THE HOME OF NATAS --

AH, YOU'VE COME FOR MISS BOWDEN? ER-- I'M AFRAID SHE MAY NOT WISH TO DEPART!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IF-- IF YOU'VE HARMED HER--



JIM WAS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING -- BUT NOT FOR THE SIGHT THAT GREETED HIM!

PEGGY!

HE HAS -- TAUGHT ME -- HIS SECRETS! AND SEE -- WHAT I -- HAVE LEARNED TO PAINT!



YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME, PEGGY! IT'S WRONG, HORRIBLY WRONG -- HE'S TAUGHT YOU TO PUT EVIL ON CANVAS!

NO! -- NO! HE'S -- THE GREATEST ARTIST -- THAT EVER LIVED!



IT'S NO USE -- SHE'S COMPLETELY WITHIN MY POWER! TELL ME -- HAVE YOU WRITTEN THE FAVORABLE REVIEW OF MY WORK THAT I REQUIRE?

NO -- AND I NEVER WILL! YOUR WORK LACKS ALL TRUE MERIT! IT'S LOW, EVIL --



YOU -- YOU DARE SAY THAT TO ME -- THE GREATEST PAINTER IN HISTORY? NO! YOU LIE, MORTAL -- LIE!





AFRAID TO FACE THE TRUTH, AREN'T YOU--  
SATAN? I'VE GOT A WORLD REPUTATION AS  
AN HONEST ART CRITIC-- AND I SAY YOUR  
PAINTINGS ARE BASE AND VILE! THAT'S  
BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY SEE AND REVEAL  
EVIL-- BY YOUR VERY NATURE, YOU'RE  
BLINDED TO TRUTH! AND EVERY  
GREAT ARTIST HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE  
GOOD IN MAN!



THE PRINCE OF EVIL REACTS -- IN AWFUL RAGE!

HO, FIENDS! TO ME--AND  
DOWN THIS MORTAL!  
KILL HIM!



AGAINST  
FEARFUL  
ODDS--

LOOKS LIKE THE END OF  
THE LINE FOR ME!--



--- BUT I CAN STILL GO  
DOWN FIGHTING!



IT WAS AT THIS LIFE-OR-DEATH  
MOMENT THAT A BOOK FELL FROM  
JIM'S POCKET-- AND THE DEMONS  
RECOILED BEFORE IT!

IT-- IT'S THAT BIBLE THE PADRE  
GAVE ME! AND IF IT'S ROUTED  
THE FIENDS-- I'LL TRY  
IT ON THE HEAD--  
MAN HIMSELF!



BEFORE THE POWER OF THE  
HOLY WORD, "NATAS" CRUMPLES!  
FROM HIS BODY THE AWFUL FORM  
OF SATAN TOWERS MOMENTARILY--  
THEN VANISHES!



LATER... I--I FEEL AS IF I'VE  
BEEN ASLEEP, AND  
DREAMING SOME AWFUL DREAM!  
IF I COULD ONLY REMEMBER  
WHAT IT WAS, JIM--

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING  
FOR US TO REMEMBER,  
PEGGY!  
WE'VE  
GOT  
EACH  
OTHER--  
AND THAT'S  
ALL THAT  
COUNTS!



THE END

STRANGE ENOUGH TO FIND A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE LYING DEEP INSIDE A LONELY CAVE -- AND HORRIBLE ENOUGH TO HEAR A VOICE CROON IN DELIGHT OVER DRIPPING BLOOD! BUT THESE ARE PORTENTS OF THE TERROR TO COME--WHEN JAGGED WINGS BEAT THE MURKY DEPTHS THAT HOLD---

# The VAMPIRE'S BONES!



THIS CLIFF ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH TO BE EXCITING -- BUT ANYWAY, IT'S CLOSE TO TOWN -- AND KEEPS ME IN FORM FOR **REAL** MOUNTAIN CLIMBING!



GARY OWENS BARELY FEELS THE SHARP FLINT EDGE THAT GASHES HIS HAND--BUT IN THE NEXT SECOND--

**BLOOD.. BLOOD! IT HAS FALLEN ON YOUR BONES, BELOVED-- NOW I CAN RISE AND FULFILL YOUR DESTINY!**

MY GOSH! THAT CAN'T BE A VOICE-- NO ONE'S NEAR HERE!



WAIT A MINUTE... A FEW DROPS OF MY BLOOD MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THIS CRACK IN THE ROCK -- AND THAT'S WHERE THE VOICE IS COMING FROM-- **SOMEWHERE BELOW!** THAT MEANS A CAVE--AND I'VE GOT TO FIND IT'S ENTRANCE!



IT WAS A STRANGE, OMINOUS CAVERN  
THAT GARY FOUND--

HOLY MACKEREL--THERE'S A STRANGE  
GLOW RISING FROM THAT CLEFT! AND  
IF THAT SLIT OF LIGHT UP THERE MEANS  
ANYTHING--IT'S DIRECTLY BELOW  
THE CRACK IN THE ROCK--THE ONE  
INTO WHICH  
THOSE DROPS  
OF BLOOD  
FELL!



HOLY SMOKE--I DIDN'T  
IMAGINE THAT VOICE  
TALKING ABOUT BLOOD  
FALLING ON BONES!  
THERE'S A SKELETON  
SPRAWLED FIVE FEET  
BELOW WITH A GLINTING  
OBJECT JUST UNDER  
THE RIBS!



FOR A CHILLING SECOND, GARY  
REACHES DOWN, HIS FINGERS  
GROPING--AND THEN--

MY GOSH, IT'S SOME KIND OF  
GEM--A GREEN STONE WITH  
SCARLET STREAKS!



THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT  
SKELETON--BUT WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN  
NOW IS THE VOICE! HOW COULD IT SPEAK  
TO BONES THAT HAVE BEEN LYING HERE FOR  
CENTURIES--AND COME FROM ANYTHING  
ALIVE? WAIT--THAT SOUND OF HEAVY  
BREATHING--SOMETHING'S UP ON  
THAT LEDGE!



GOOD LORD! SHE MAY BE BREATHING NOW  
--BUT THAT ANCIENT WINDING SHEET IS  
WHAT PEOPLE USED TO BE  
BURIED  
IN!



SUDDENLY--STARING FROM THE WAXEN  
FEATURES IN SILENT MOCKERY--

SHE'S OPENED HER EYES! I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT THAT GLANCE MEANS--BUT  
IT HOLDS SOMETHING  
REPULSIVE AND  
EVIL!



AS THE PALE LIPS MOVE--  
BLOOD HAS RELEASED  
ME--BLOOD SHALL  
SUSTAIN ME--  
FOREVER!

NOW  
I KNOW WHAT  
SPOKE! I'VE  
HEARD AND SEEN  
ENOUGH--I'M  
GETTING OUT  
OF HERE!



**BUT THEN -- A SUDDEN SLIP!**



**STUNNED, GARY LIES MOTIONLESS -- DIMLY HEARING AN EERIE RUSTLE ABOVE HIM -- BUT UNAWARE OF SOMETHING BLACK AND JAGGED UNFOLDING IN THE GLOOM!**



**WITH THE NUMBED AWARENESS OF A NIGHTMARE--**

**SOMETHING'S PANTING TOWARD ME!  
IT'S BENDING OVER MY FACE --  
OVER MY THROAT!**



**MINUTES LATER --**

**I FEEL ROCKY-- AND IT CAN'T BE JUST  
THE RESULT OF THAT FALL! MAYBE I  
OUGHT TO GET  
OUT OF HERE--  
BUT I CAN'T  
LEAVE UNTIL I'VE  
LEARNED THE  
TRUTH!**



**HER FACE WAS PALE JUST A  
SHORT TIME WHILE AGO -- AND  
NOW IT HAS THE FLUSH OF A  
CREATURE THAT'S ALIVE -- A  
CREATURE  
WITH  
BLOOD!**



**WITH A FURY ROOTED IN  
STARK TERROR--**

**WHOSE BLOOD? WHAT  
KIND OF DEMON  
ARE YOU?**

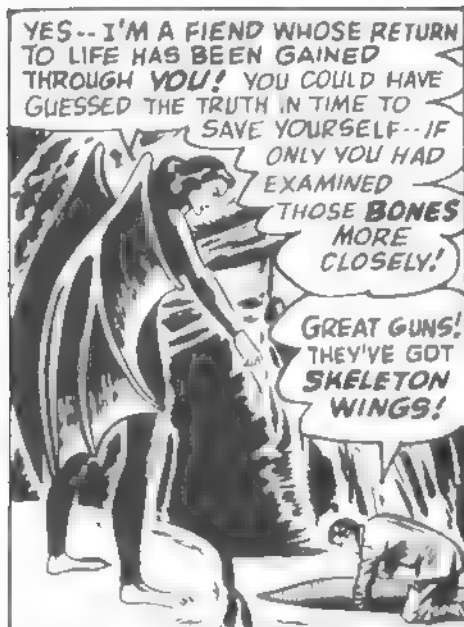


**HA-HA-HA! WITH TWO SMALL  
FANG MARKS ON YOUR THROAT,  
HOW CAN  
YOU HAVE  
ANY  
DOUBT?**

**WHAT--? THOSE  
ARE WINGS-- THE  
WINGS OF A  
VAMPIRE!**







YES-- I'M A FIEND WHOSE RETURN TO LIFE HAS BEEN GAINED THROUGH YOU! YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED THE TRUTH IN TIME TO SAVE YOURSELF-- IF ONLY YOU HAD EXAMINED THOSE BONES MORE CLOSELY!

GREAT GUNS! THEY'VE GOT SKELETON WINGS!



HE WAS THE CREATURE I LOVED-- A CREATURE LIKE ME! A CURSED DAY FELL WHEN HE WAS SLAIN-- DOOMING ME TO REMAIN HERE IN A TRANCE-- UNTIL HUMAN BLOOD WAS SHED UPON HIS BONES!



A CREATURE LIKE YOU, EH? BUT IF HE WAS FINISHED OFF, WHAT'S THIS BUNK ABOUT YOUR LIVING FOREVER-- SUPPOSE YOU'RE KILLED THE SAME WAY?

NEVER! HE WAS TRICKED INTO SWALLOWING THE THING YOU FOUND-- A CHARM THAT CAN SEAR A VAMP, RE'S BODY WITH DEADLY FIRE-- A BLOOD-STONE! BUT I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE!



NO-- THE BLOODSTONE WON'T SAVE YOU! NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MASTERED BY MY FANGS, YOUR LIFE HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE-- TO SERVE AS MY PREY!

NO DICE! IT HAPPENED ONCE BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A STEADY VICTIM-- YOU'D BETTER CRAWL IN WITH THOSE BONES AND GIVE UP!



THEN-- BORNE ON THE BLACK PINIONS OF DOOM--

I HAVE WAITED A LONG WHILE-- AND I HAVE CRAVED TOO KEENLY TO BE SPURNED!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THAT FLUTTERING CREEP!



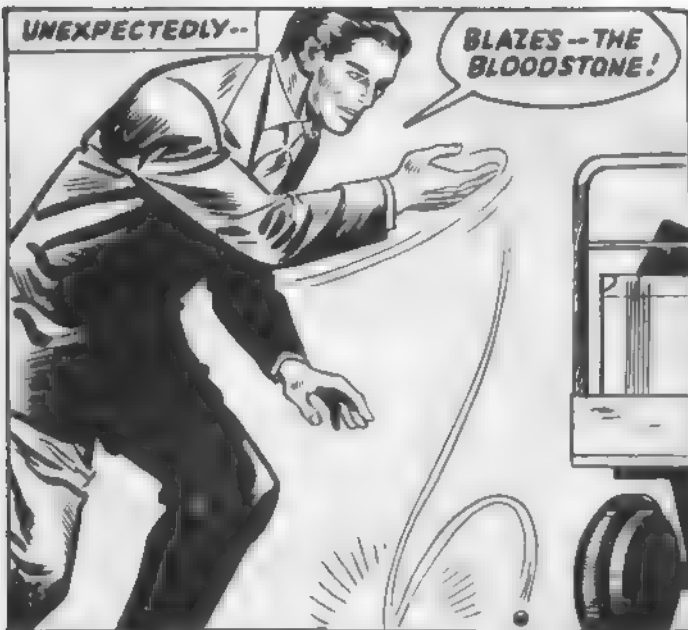
SHE'S NOT PURSUING! MAYBE EVERYTHING'S OKAY-- NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THE CAVE!

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SAFE? I HAVE A HOLD OVER YOU THAT NOTHING CAN BREAK-- AND TOMORROW NIGHT-- IT WILL BRING YOU BACK!



A HALF-HOUR LATER-- AS GARY PACES A SUBURBAN RAILROAD PLATFORM--

NO USE FEELING JUMPY-- THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN GET ME BACK TO THAT CAVE-- SHORT OF PHYSICAL FORCE! AND YET IF SHE WASN'T SURE OF HER EVIL POWER, WHY DID SHE LET ME ESCAPE-- WITH THIS?



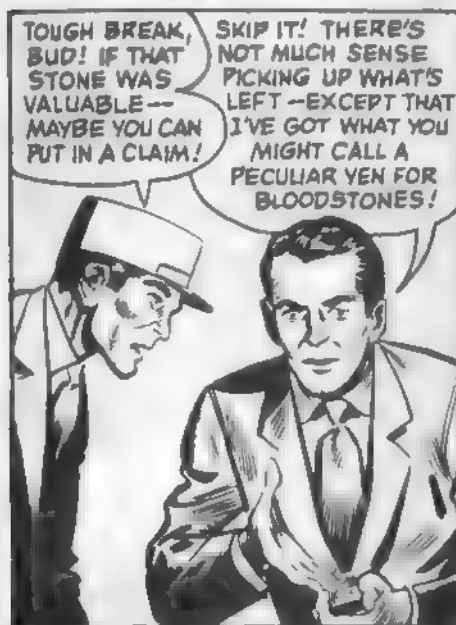
UNEXPECTEDLY--

BLAZES--THE  
BLOODSTONE!



IT'S GONE--  
SMASHED  
TO A  
POWDER!

CRUNCH!



TOUGH BREAK,  
BUD! IF THAT  
STONE WAS  
VALUABLE--  
MAYBE YOU CAN  
PUT IN A CLAIM!

SKIP IT! THERE'S  
NOT MUCH SENSE  
PICKING UP WHAT'S  
LEFT--EXCEPT THAT  
I'VE GOT WHAT YOU  
MIGHT CALL A  
PECULIAR YEN FOR  
BLOODSTONES!

LATE THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--  
WAITING IN HUSHED DARKNESS--

SURE, IT'S NORMAL TO USE  
LIGHTS--BUT THAT MIGHT  
INDICATE I'M AFRAID--AND  
IMPLANT THAT SHE-FIEND'S  
POWER OF SUGGESTION  
IN MY MIND!

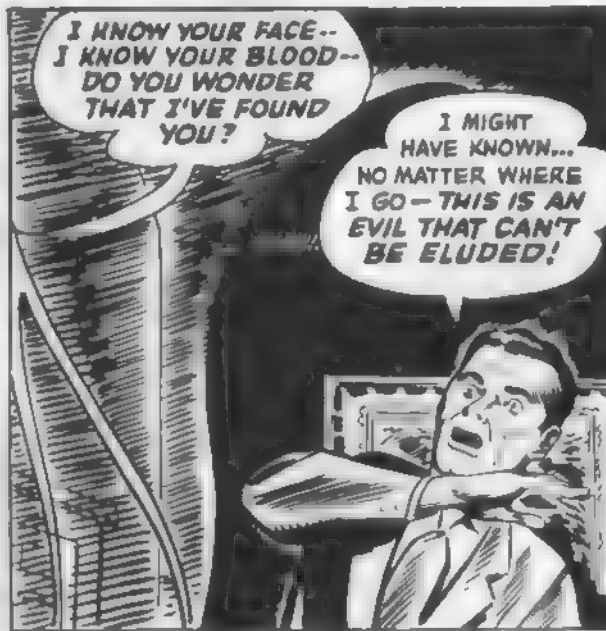


AS A SLOW HOUR PASSES--  
HEAVY WITH THE THREAT OF  
IMPENDING TERROR--

STRANGE--WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?  
THERE'S NOTHING BUT DARKNESS--  
BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE DEPTH--AND  
MOVEMENT!



GREAT SCOTT! IT'S ARCHED  
AND GAPING--IT'S A CAVE--  
AND SOMETHING'S  
COMING OUT!



I KNOW YOUR FACE--  
I KNOW YOUR BLOOD--  
DO YOU WONDER  
THAT I'VE FOUND  
YOU?

I MIGHT  
HAVE KNOWN...  
NO MATTER WHERE  
I GO--THIS IS AN  
EVIL THAT CAN'T  
BE ELUDED!



OKAY, YOU'RE HERE -- BUT WHAT'LL IT GET YOU? A PHANTOM CAN'T USE FANGS!

NOT YET! BUT MY SPIRIT WILL BE A LURE YOU CANNOT RESIST--DRAWING YOU TO THE SPOT WHERE THE FANGS ARE WAITING!



AS THE MOCKING FIGURE FADES--  
WAITING--  
WAITING FOR  
A VICTIM!

A LURE I  
CAN'T RESIST...  
AND IT'S TRUE--  
THAT CAVE'S  
EXERTING  
AN EVIL  
ATTRACTION  
I CAN'T  
FIGHT OFF!



WITH THE DESPERATION OF A  
MAN PITTED AGAINST DOOM--

NO-- I CAN'T FIGHT! BUT I CAN  
HOPE -- HOPE THAT MY ONE  
SMALL CHANCE WILL  
PRODUCE A MIRACLE!



HERE'S A TOAST TO TONIGHT! IT WILL BRING  
EITHER A BONDAGE WORSE THAN DEATH TO  
ME -- OR IF A LONG SHOT  
PAYS OFF -- ANNIHILATION  
FOR HER!



AN HOUR LATER -- LIKE A THING ENSLAVED  
IN WILL AND BODY --

I KNOW IT WILL BE AN  
ORDEAL -- SOMETHING  
THAT'LL MAKE MY FLESH  
CREEP -- BUT I CAN'T  
TURN AWAY  
FROM IT!

HAA! DID I SPEAK  
TRULY? YOU WILL HATE  
ME -- YOU WILL BE  
REPELLED -- BUT YOU  
WILL OBEY MY  
EVERY BIDDING!



YES--I MUST OBEY! BUT  
THERE IS ONE THING THAT  
CAN END IT-- SOMETHING  
WITH A HOLD NOT EVEN  
YOU CAN MATCH--  
DEATH!

AND YOU HOPE FOR THAT  
-- WHEN I LOVE YOU AS  
ONLY SOMETHING THAT IS  
HUNGERED FOR CAN BE  
LOVED? NO, YOU WILL NOT  
DIE -- AS LONG AS I CAN  
DRAW YOU CLOSE --  
TOWARD MY FANGS!



AGAIN, THE HOT BREATH OF EVIL PANTS DOWN--  
AND AS THE VAMPIRE DRAWS NEAR --

AND NOW...  
NOW...

TIME SEEMS TO FADE IN THE SHADOWS --  
AND THEN --

I MENTIONED SOMETHING  
BEFORE -- BUT YOU WERE TOO  
EAGER TO LET ME FINISH!  
**THE BLOODSTONE  
HAS BEEN DESTROYED!**

WHAT DOES  
IT MATTER? I CAN  
FORGET THE GEM  
AS READILY AS I WILL  
FORGET HIM -- NOW  
THAT I HAVE  
FOUND YOU!



THAT'S WHAT  
I MEANT BY  
**DEATH,**  
MONSTER --  
**YOUR  
DEATH!**

WHAT HAVE YOU SAVED BY OUTWITTING  
ME -- **YOUR LIFE?** IF I MUST DIE, MY  
FINAL FURY WILL BE SPENT IN TEARING  
YOU APART! IF THIS MUST  
BE MY TOMB --  
IT WILL BE STAINED  
WITH **YOUR  
BLOOD!**



YOU -- AND WHEN I THINK  
OF HOW I WILL ENSLAVE  
YOU -- IT MAKES ME  
GIDDY WITH DELIGHT!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S  
**THAT?** OR COULD IT  
BE THAT I SAVED THE  
SMASHED BLOODSTONE  
AND DRANK THE POWDER --  
AND THAT BY NOW  
IT'S COURSEING  
THROUGH TWO  
BLOOD  
STREAMS  
-- MINE  
AND  
YOURS!



**CLAWS -- CAN BE FAR MORE --  
TERRIBLE -- THAN FANGS!**



N THE NEXT INSTANT -- WITH A CRY THAT TAPERS  
OFF INTO THE TWITTER OF A STRICKEN BAT --

**AGH -- EEEEE!**



FOR A MOMENT, GARY PEERS INTO THE CLEFT -- AND  
THEN -- STEPPING OUT INTO A MOONLIGHT PURGED  
OF FEAR --

WHO COULD DENY SHE WAS EVIL --  
AFTER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?  
AND WHO COULD DOUBT SHE WAS ANCIENT --  
WATCHING HER DIE -- AND THEN FINDING  
**ANOTHER  
SKELETON IN  
THE VAMPIRE'S  
GRAVE?**



THE END



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